

What is claimed is:

Eng. E1
Sub B1
15 1. An easy open closure apparatus for a container having a neck with a terminal end having an orifice and a radially outwardly extending bead having an outer surface and a radially outwardly extending undercut, an upper portion, and a lower portion, comprising:

a cap portion having a top panel, a peripherally depending side wall, and a peripherally depending skirt; and

10

a handle depending from said cap portion.

09579050052600
15 2. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 1, wherein said side wall further comprises an inner surface which conforms to said bead outer surface and a radially inwardly extending peripheral lip that engages said bead undercut securing said closure to said container.

Sub B2
20 3. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 1, wherein said skirt communicates and depends from said side wall lip wherein said skirt extends radially downward away from said container neck.

Sub B3
25 4. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 1, wherein said handle further comprises an upper portion, a lower portion, and a fulcrum portion there between said upper and lower portions.

5. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 4, wherein said handle upper portion communicates and depends from said skirt and further comprises an inner surface and an outer surface.

Sub B3
30 6. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 5, wherein said inner surface abuts the outer surface of said container neck upper portion over an extended length wherein said inner surface is substantially vertical relative to the plane of said container top panel.

7. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 4, wherein said handle lower portion communicates and depends from said handle upper portion and further comprises an inner surface and an outer surface.

8. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 4, wherein said handle lower portion radiates outward from said container neck lower portion such that a gap is formed there between.

9. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 4, wherein said fulcrum portion abuts said container neck outer surface such that upon application of pressure to said lower handle portion outer

10 surface, the side wall lip is lever-action disengaged from the bead undercut.

10. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 1, wherein said apparatus is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, fiberglass, and composites thereof.

11. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 1, wherein said material allows said cap portion to temporarily deform, allowing said cap portion to disengage said bead and be re-secured to said bead, said cap portion always returning to its original form.

12. The easy open closure apparatus in claim 10, wherein said material avoids deformation of said first and second handle portions while pressed.

13. A method of opening a container using the easy open closure apparatus for a container having a neck with a terminal end having an orifice and a radially outwardly extending bead having an outer surface and a radially outwardly extending undercut, an upper portion, and a lower portion, comprising:

a cap portion having a top panel, a peripherally depending side wall having a radially inwardly extending peripheral lip that engages said bead undercut securing said closure to said container, and a peripherally depending skirt; and

a handle depending from said cap portion, said handle further comprising an upper portion, a lower portion, and a fulcrum portion there between said upper and lower portions; comprising the steps of:

- 5 holding the neck of said container and the lower handle portion of said handle with at least one hand; and

depressing said lower handle portion toward said neck of said container until said peripheral lip disengages said bead undercut.

10

14. A method of reusing the easy open closure apparatus for a container having a neck with a terminal end having an orifice and a radially outwardly extending bead having an outer surface and a radially outwardly extending undercut, an upper portion, and a lower portion, comprising:

09579050-052600

15

a cap portion having a top panel, a peripherally depending side wall having a radially inwardly extending peripheral lip that engages said bead undercut securing said closure to said container, and a peripherally depending skirt; and

20

a handle depending from said cap portion, said handle further comprising an upper portion, a lower portion, and a fulcrum portion there between said upper and lower portions; comprising the steps of:

providing a container; and

25

pressing said cap portion of the easy open closure apparatus firmly down over said bead until said peripheral lip engages said bead undercut.